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OLC 72-1000
13 September 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of the Intelligence Subcommittee of House Armed Services Committee on 11 September 1972

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1. On 11 September 1972 Messrs. Maury and Carver, accompanied by [redacted] briefed the Intelligence Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee on current intelligence and developments in Indochina. The discussion included Top Secret/Sensitive material.

2. Present for all or part of the session were:

Lucien Nedzi (D., Mich.), Chairman
Melvin Price (D., Ill.)
William Bray (R., Ind.)

3. Present from the Subcommittee staff:

Frank Slatinshek

4. Mr. Maury opened the briefing and covered the Soviet testing of the SS-NX-8 naval missile, Soviet storage of nuclear warheads in eastern Europe, upcoming major space events involving a Soyuz spacecraft for a manned mission and another using a "J" vehicle for possible unmanned moon shot, SA-2 and SA-3 equipment furnished to Syria, two additional divisions bringing the total to upwards of 37 identified in military districts bordering on China, and the increased Chinese air defenses near Vietnamese and Laotian borders in response to U. S. air activity in Southeast Asia.

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5. Mr. Maury provided a brief rundown on CIA reporting on Arab terrorists operations in Germany. Mr. Slatinshek inquired whether there is any way of determining if the individuals identified in our reports had been involved in the Munich attack. We promised to check and report.

6. Chairman Nedzi noted that in a previous meeting we had briefed that the reports cited by Jack Anderson in his column are from a batch acquired by him apparently in early December last year to which it was responded that the bulk of his information still seems to be from those reports. Mr. Bray noted the amount of information that has gotten loose from the military would indicate a need for a shaking up within the military departments.

7. Mr. Carver responded to the Chairman's question relating to [redacted] indicating that this is a matter outside our ken. Mr. Carver's rundown on Cambodia evoked some discussion of Lon Nol and the psychological factors affecting the Cambodian military forces. He also covered Laos, Vang Pao, the Chinese road, and [redacted] returnees and the mine sweeper and three other vessels identified in Haiphong harbor.

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8. Mr. Bray asked whether the heavy rain of the monsoons had passed or whether there was still danger of flooding. He was told unless two or more typhoons should strike more or less back to back, there would not be much danger. Chairman Nedzi inquired about the situation in North Vietnam and its leadership, noting that there had been some information that two alternate members of the Politburo may have been promoted to full membership and asked whether there is any sign of change in the essential position of the North Vietnamese. Mr. Carver responded that only the Central Committee can elevate to the Politburo that there is no sign of change in the essential position but that reports have been received reflecting intent to grab as much territory during the month of October as possible to be in an optimum position if there should be a cease-fire.

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9. Chairman Nedzi asked if consideration of a cease-fire by the NVN isn't highly unusual and was told that there has been precedent before of emphasis on being ready to take advantage of a possible change in situation. Cautioning that we do not know the details of any private discussions that might be in train, Mr. Carver said that unless concessions have been made by us or by the NVN, nothing in the current situation indicates that a cease-fire would be particularly attractive to the North Vietnamese. The Chairman commented that he felt it quite unusual that commanders at the Cadre level would be discussing such strategic items and asked whether the seizing of territory wouldn't be beneficial to the North Vietnamese other than for a cease-fire. This was agreed.

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10. The Chairman was particularly interested in information about supplies going into North Vietnam and was joined by Mr. Bray and Mr. Price with questions concerning Soviet airlift into NVN. Mr. Carver related the details of our estimates of tonnage going through the port before the mining, and the present tonnage, and noted that the Soviets have not mounted an airlift as such. The Soviet flights have provided replacements for ship crews in the port and some cargo perhaps including commo gear but practically no military cargo. In response to the Chairman's question, Mr. Carver also outlined current efforts to cut off the flow of supplies from China.

11. Chairman Nedzi said this morning's news indicated that Soviet ships are going into Chinese ports in the south of China. He was advised that the Chinese to date have only allowed Soviet ships into northern ports, that Soviet vessels have not been using southern ports.

12. The Chairman inquired about Jimmy Hoffa's trip and asked if the Agency is consulted in this type of thing or do we know about it when it is happening. Mr. Carver told him that Mr. Hoffa is not the kind of an American the North Vietnamese want visiting their country, that we knew nothing about this material until it appeared in the press, but the North Vietnamese have since made it plain that he would be unwelcome. The Chairman asked if it isn't possible for us to learn through our overseas activities of such events, through [redacted] or other countries through which it might be arranged. It was responded that arrangements through [redacted] are not through the Embassy and that such events would only be known where there was considerable negotiation, such as in [redacted]

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13. Chairman Nedzi asked about the heroin business and the McCoy book. Mr. Maury responded outlining various press allegations against the Agency and Department of State, Mr. McCoy's appearance before the Proxmire Subcommittee of the Senate, and the correspondence with Harper and Row detailing many of the allegations covered in Mr. Houston's letter and Paul Velte's comments. Chairman Nedzi commented that even though he is using the benefit of hindsight that it appears to him that it was a very drastic step to go to the publishers. Mr. Bray shared the Chairman's concern. Chairman Nedzi went on that he is troubled by the tactics used by the Agency that when the story first broke he wasn't really concerned; he wanted to wait and see if there was some real basis for our action. He

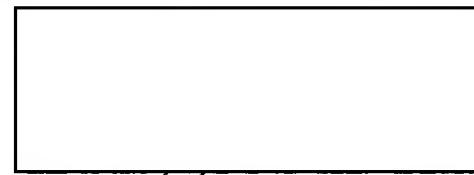
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said he distinguishes this situation completely from the Marchetti case which involved national security matters. This instance was just the matter of a writer relating his experiences and it seems rather obvious that if the Government asked the same questions of the same individuals interviewed by Mr. McCoy, the Government would get different answers. He said there appears to be nothing in the book and attendant publicity except some irresponsible charges which the Agency would be free to rebut at any time.

14. Although the Chairman left no doubts about his concern for the action taken with the publisher of the McCoy book, the meeting was businesslike and cordial and closed with the Chairman's expression of appreciation for the content of the briefing.

15. There were no followup actions.



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